

WOODEN MEN'S TALK.

The other evening as the lengthening shadows cast by a declining sun began to mark the close of the day, as O street was comparatively quiet, a solitary bicyclist might have been seen making her way past the Red Dude on toward the post office. In fact, she was seen. The Red Dude saw her, and saw that she wore bloomers.

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"Yer kin say wot yer want'er erbout bloomers" he remarked, "but yer can't stop 'em, an' I don't know dat dey oughter be stopped. As fer as I'm concerned I say dey is a good t'ing—push 'em erlong. As er rule I'm dead agin dese finn de seckle biznesses, an' afore I seen 'em I wuz in fer havin de perlice pull 'em; but w'en I seen er lady go sailin' down O street in wot yer call de 'rational' costume, it jes caught me eye, an' now yer kin put me down as fer bloomers wid both feet. Some guys is agin 'em, an' wot fer? Because dey is not modes. I say, wouldn't dat kill yer? Did yer ever lissen to wot de wild waves wuz sayin' an' at de same time glue yer eyes to de sight of de wimmin in bathin'? Say, its no wonder de wild waves say suthin'. Livin picters an' bronze statuary ain't in it wid dese female surf bathers. An' say, did yer ever get inside uv er spike-tail an' hie yerself ter a swell ball, w'ere de ladies wear dresses wot look like dere wuz er big piece missin at de top? Did yer ever jine in der toot ensamble an' do-cy-dough wid de belles, an' take notice uv der fac' dat de clo's de wimmin folks wear ter de balls is mighty scrippy? Ef yer have, like me, seen de worl' yer know der'es no call ter kick on bloomers. Wy, dey is tame beside bathin' suits an' low necked dresses. W'en yer say de bloomers is all right yer jes talkin'. Course dey is all right. I say bring on bloomers an' interduce 'em inter sassiety. De fellers wot kick on bloomers is way behine de times; see? Dey're in de las car uv de slow freight, an' dey'll never ketch up. De bloomers is okay, Long may dey bloom.

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"Say, hev yer noticed de way some folks is beginin' ter worry erbout de weather? Dere is people wot er cock-sure dere ain't going ter be no more rain in dis state, and dey is talkin' erbout quitten.' It hez allus seemed ter me dat trouble comes fast enuff 'bout runnin' ter meet it. It'll be time enuff to talk erbout crop failure w'en de crops hez failed, don't yer tink? But some people, dey allus see t'ings black, an' it seems like dey'd be disappoointed if t'ings wuz ter turn out good. Erbout dis weather an' crop bizness, jes keep yer coat on. Time enuff ter cry w'en yer hit. Time enuf ter cross der bridge w'en yer come ter it. I'm a kicker myself, but I ain't allus punchin' holes in de state. I don't put in my time tellin' people ter clear out.

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"Dere's a fresh water preacher in one uv de towns in our base ball circuit wot ought ter be salted down. He needs picklin'. W'ere does he live? Wy in Rockford. Dis here preacher jumps all over de mayor in dat town for askin' de merchants ter close dere shops on de openin' day. It's like dis: He say: "De ball players is professional sinners. It seems ter me dot by linkin' himself (dat's de mayor) so closely wid de ball players, dat he walketh in de way uv de ungodly, an' standeth in de way uv sinners, sitteth in de seat uv de scornful an' his delight is not in de law uv de Lord." Some thin's de matter wid dat man, don't yer t'ink? He ain't right, not him. Somebody must hev doused dere glim on him, fer he's in de dark. De idea uv callin' base ball players sinners! Wy, he's hollerin' down de wrong rain barrel. Maybe he wuz t'inkin' uv

Dave Rowe. But de ball players, dey ain't all Dave Rowes. Wy most uv de boys wears Christian Endeavor pins an' you can't get 'em ter read der Sunday papers—dey is so demoralizin'. An' dey go ter church reg'lar, an' w'en de umpire gins er rotten decision dey jes repeat yards uv de shorter catechism ter theirselves. Wy, dey waiketh in de narrow path, an' sometimes dey touch both sides. Dat preacher'll strike out, first he knows.

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"Queer t'ings is happenin' dese deya. Dey say Billy Turner is goin' ter join de Salvation Army an' take de money at de door, and Tom Cooke hez bought a pair uv bloomers an' will put 'em on an' ride de whole lengt' uv O street, w'ile de band plays 'Johnny Git Yer Gun.' Fritz Westermann hez turned inter a red carnation, an' Miss _____ is wearin' him in her hair. Mayor Graham is gittin' ready ter reform de town. He's going ter hev de Angelus rung every night an' hev all lights put out at 9 er'clock. Ef Billy Barr and Deacon Blodgett want ter stay up after 9 dey'll hev ter get er license er be pulled."

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